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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Rikuro Obara et al.

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For:

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Examiner:

Ryan P. Gillan

Group Art Unit: 3746

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF JUNE 13, 2006

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action of June 13, 2006, on which the shortened statutory period for response expired on September 13, 2006. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.